

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth

Cyfeillion y Ddaear Sir Benfro

Newsletter April 2008



60% of Energy Content of Gas Could Be Wasted at Pembroke Power Station.

Proposals to build a 2000MW power station burning LNG at Pembroke received a boost recently when Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) raised no objection

We oppose this proposal because:

- The power station would emit up to 6 million tonnes of CO₂ a year
- The heat it would waste would be equivalent to half of Wales' electricity demand.
- Power stations on the shores of Milford Haven should be CHP (combined heat and power) where the waste heat would be used in the two oil refineries and the two LNG terminals.
- CHP is fairly common practice in countries such as Denmark. They have, for instance, recently built a coal-fired CHP power station that operates at 93% efficiency. This compares to an operating efficiency of 56% at the proposed Pembroke station. The London Development Agency has recently announced plans to use the waste heat from Barking power station. This will heat 120,000 properties and cut CO₂ emissions by 96,000 tonnes a year.
- The energy consumed in extracting, liquefying, transporting and re-gasifying the LNG could result in up to a quarter of the energy in the fuel being lost even

before it reaches the Pembroke power station

- Over the whole process, around 60% of the energy content of the gas would be wasted before electricity would be transmitted from the power station. This wastage is totally unacceptable when we face such a serious and urgent threat from climate change. Former Prime Minister, Tony Blair, recently stated that the world has just two years in which to start implementing cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, or accept that climate change is irreversible.

Please write to, email, phone or go to meet you MP to urge him to demand CHP for electricity generation from LNG in Pembrokeshire.

Also, please write to Malcolm Wicks, Minister of State for Energy, Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth AGM will be held Tuesday April 22nd 7.30pm SPAN office, Narberth

There will be a discussion with Paul Wimbush from Lammas about the Eco Village Project as well as a film. Followed by refreshments.

Please join us to celebrate **Our 20th Anniversary.**

The Transition from oil dependency to local resilience

A presentation by Rob Hopkins, the originator of the Transitions Towns Movement was made before an audience of about 150 at Ysgol Gwaun in Fishguard on 5th March.

His enthusiasm for this grass roots approach, empowering local communities, has turned this into a rapidly growing worldwide movement. There are now over 26 established transition initiatives in the UK; for further information see www.transitionculture.org

Llandeilo has become the first 'official' transition community in Wales, and in Pembrokeshire, a growing number of people in the St. Davids, Newport and Fishguard areas are currently working on transition projects.

Contact tom.latter@bopenworld.com for info. about Fishguard

New Bill will take planning powers out of Welsh hands

Western Mail, 17 January 2008

A new Bill will dramatically reduce the power of people in Wales to control our destiny, says Leanne Wood AM

UNELECTED officials in London, not democratically-elected representatives from Wales, will decide whether wind farms and power stations are built here in the future. That's the intention of the UK Government's Planning Bill, which could be enacted this year.

The Bill creates an England- Wales quango called the Infrastructure Planning Committee. It will "force through major projects without considering climate change like power stations...", according to Friends of the Earth.

When people voted in the 1997 referendum many thought devolution meant devolution. That Wales now had powers which Westminster could not take back. But this Bill is in danger of almost wholly ignoring our nation and the devolution settlement. It will dramatically reduce the power of people and their elected representatives over planning.

This is not a dry matter of constitutional law. This quango, if established, would decide on any future LNG pipeline. Who can forget the fervent protests and objections when the LNG pipeline from Pembrokeshire to the Welsh border was constructed? There is now evidence to suggest a new LNG pipeline is to be built in the north from Anglesey to Liverpool.

This Bill has now reached the committee stage in Westminster

This is an extract from the article:

<http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/news/feature-news/2008/01/17/new-bill-will-take-planning-powers-out-of-welsh-hands-91466-20359199/>

Friends of the Earth are conducting a major campaign opposing this Bill.



Local singing star, Cerys Matthews, has given her full support to Friends of the Earth's Big Ask campaign for a strong Climate Change Bill. Along with pop group 'Goldie Lookin Chain' and Radio 1 DJ Huw Stephens, Cerys recorded her support on camera for FoE's on-line march and appears on the front cover of FoE Cymru's local group's magazine, Cymru Matters.

Narberth Compost Corner has now been set up at Stone Ditch Farm. It is an initiative by Narberth Future forum. To join contact Mr & Mrs Boothman Narberth Compost Corner Stone Ditch farm Narberth SA67 8BU

Welsh Waste Consultation

Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth have submitted a detailed response, written by consultants, to the South West Wales Regional Waste Plan produced by the Welsh Assembly Government. We exposed a number of errors in the consultation document and showed that incineration should be rejected. Other systems, such as extensive recycling followed by Mechanical Biological Treatment, are better solutions.

The Real Cost of Computers.

The EU has introduced an Energy Star label for laptops and desktops with a low energy consumption.

www.ethicalconsumer points out that people replace their computers with the latest models without considering the environmental impact: the polluting materials and the working conditions of those involved in their manufacture. Greenpeace have produced a Green Electronics Guide rating of companies on their use of hazardous materials and their take back for recycling.

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Most of the big companies outsource their production. Research in Mexico, the Philippines and China show that employees handle toxic materials in poorly ventilated spaces.
Computer Aid International

(www.computeraid.org) is a not for profit organisation based in London. It refurbishes and sells computers at affordable prices to schools, colleges, hospitals etc in Africa and S.America. Companies typically upgrade every 3-5 years, around 3 million PCs are decommissioned every year.

Rubbish offers hope of meeting green energy targets

According an article in the Independent on Sunday (Feb 17th 2008) Up to 3% of our electricity needs could be generated from rubbish. The government is looking at the

possibility of using anaerobic digestion, during which, natural bacteria, break down materials such as food waste and farm slurry to produce gas for electricity generation
Anaerobic digestion is used in Austria, Denmark and Germany, which alone has nearly 4,000 plants in operation generating some 1.4 per cent of the country's electricity.

SPAN LAUNCH NEW RECYCLING PROJECT

ONE WORLD EARTH DAY 22nd. APRIL

Recycle old silver discs and benefit Span Arts

Instead of binning them to landfill and polluting the environment—you can now dump all silver discs, printer cartridges, photocopier cartridges and old mobiles here for safe & clean recycling – they are not dead - they will live again!

BROWSE for lost/new treasures in our rescue racks of CDs & Vinyl

FIND amazing music that you did not know you wanted

TELL your friends about this service – they will be glad you did

CDs, DVDs and CD ROMs are made from plastic bonded to silver or aluminium and are very difficult to separate safely. All CD's left here will either be re-sold (with your permission) or sent to a mechanical separation plant where the plastic and metal are safely turned into reusable material. Some discs will be turned into art objects, lamps clocks etc. We cannot be responsible for confidential material stored on disc.

CALL US NOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE
**FREE COLLECTION OF YOUR
TECHNOTRASH** 01834 869323
email:info@span-arts.org.uk

PCC Councillors View Great Global Warming Swindle

We objected to County Councillors on the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee being shown the notorious and factually inaccurate film, The Great Global Warming Swindle. As a result of our objection, we were invited to write a paper for the Committee but the officer responsible forgot to inform us in time. He apologised and has asked us to produce one now for the May meeting. We are more than happy to do so.

Road Building Costs Rocket

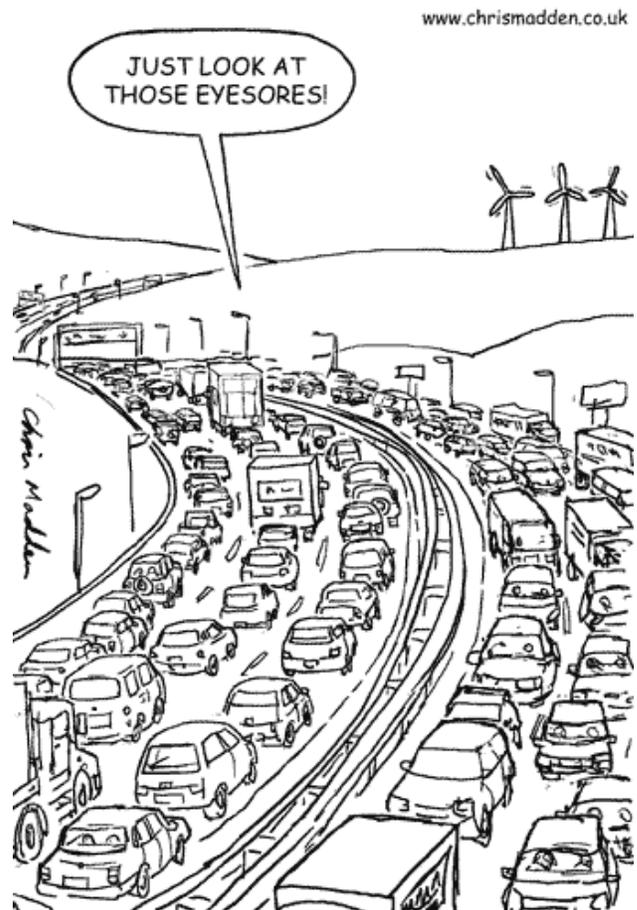
It is now estimated that the cost of widening the M6 motorway will be £1,000 an inch! The entire project will cost in excess of £2.9bn, four times more than predicted. We have shown that the cost of the proposed dualling of the A40 between St Clears and Haverfordwest has already risen from £70m in 2001 to £324m twelve months ago. Who knows what the final cost would be.

As rising fuel costs impact on rural communities like Pembrokeshire, it is worth remembering that, between 1997 and 2007, the cost of motoring in real terms fell by 8 per cent. At the same time, the cost of travelling by bus increased by 14 per cent and by train by 5 per cent. The sale of gas guzzling vehicles has comfortably outstripped the sale of fuel efficient vehicles, indicating that many people still have enough money to burn on motoring. With oil prices likely to continue rising, the best way forward is to radically improve fuel efficiency and invest far more in improving and reducing the price of public transport

**Gardeners please save some plants or seedlings for our stall at the SPAN Big Plant Sale
Tel: 01437 532575**

Oil & Gas Exploration

Just before Christmas, the Government announced that they would not grant licences for drilling in Cardigan Bay as not enough was known about its effects on the dolphins in the area. This was a victory for all those who have opposed the proposal. Then, in February, the Government announced that they were offering licences for the next round of oil and gas exploration (the 25th round) which included all areas off west Wales other than the SAC (Special Area of Conservation) in Cardigan Bay. The Pembrokeshire marine SAC is, unbelievably, in the area being offered. We are currently looking at the details of the proposal before responding.



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